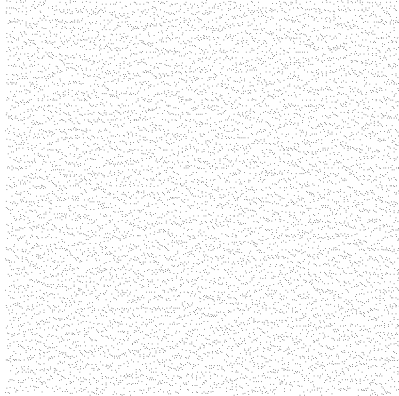


**To:** Thompson, Steve[thompson.steve@epa.gov]; Seager, Cheryl[Seager.Cheryl@epa.gov]; Osbourne, Margaret[osbourne.margaret@epa.gov]  
**From:** Vargo, Steve  
**Sent:** Fri 9/8/2017 9:07:08 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Statement on Manchester



Left you off

**From:** Vargo, Steve  
**Sent:** Friday, September 08, 2017 2:48 PM  
**To:** David Gray <Gray.David@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** 'Craig Carroll' <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>; Robert Snowbarger <Snowbarger.Robert@epa.gov>; Monica Smith <Smith.Monica@epa.gov>; R6HarveyInfo <R6HarveyInfo@epa.gov>; R6HarveyRICT <R6HarveyRICT@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Statement on Manchester

Statement on Manchester

EPA deployed four air quality technical specialists to Houston on September 8, 2017 to conduct surveillance in the Manchester area to evaluate potential sources of the volatile organic compounds and benzene that have been detected in the area in recent days. They will perform air monitoring, evaluate the data, and conduct facility assessments as appropriate. This activity is being conducted in partnership with TCEQ.

Steve Vargo

Associate Division Director

Multimedia Division

US EPA, Region 6

Work: 214 665 2730

Cell: 214 232 9020

**To:** Osbourne, Margaret[osbourne.margaret@epa.gov]  
**From:** Thompson, Steve  
**Sent:** Tue 9/12/2017 1:34:11 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Air assessment update

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Seager, Cheryl" <Seager.Cheryl@epa.gov>  
**Date:** September 12, 2017 at 8:26:36 AM CDT  
**To:** "Thompson, Steve" <thompson.steve@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Air assessment update

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Seager, Cheryl" <Seager.Cheryl@epa.gov>  
**Date:** September 11, 2017 at 5:36:32 PM CDT  
**To:** "Gray, David" <gray.david@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Air assessment update

On September 8, 2017, four EPA 6EN field personnel deployed to Houston (serving as technical specialists under the ESF-10 OSC) and conducted total VOC area monitoring in the ship channel area with PIDs and FLIR cameras (since the TAGA was down). On Friday, September 8, two inspectors accompanied TCEQ investigators and made entry to the Valero Houston Refinery, observed the two problematic tanks (Tank 3, the floating roof tank with the failed roof, and Tank 228, the tank with the pinhole leak in the drain line), and documented corrective actions. They observed both tanks with the FLIR camera and observed emissions from Tank 3 with the camera in regular IR mode and emissions from Tank 228 with the camera in High Sensitivity mode. The two other inspectors conducted air monitoring with PIDs in the neighborhood surrounding Valero and did not observe any benzene levels above the 180 ppb threshold.

On September 9, 2017, the TAGA was still down so the 6EN field personnel conducted air monitoring in the following four areas: (1) south of LyondellBasell - Houston Refining along Lawndale St.; (2) west of the Magellan Terminals Facility

along the fenceline on Federal Rd.; (3) southwest of Valero Houston Refinery's Tank 3 across from Sims bayou; and (4) along N Witter St. between Pasadena Refining Systems Inc. (PRSI) and Kinder Morgan's Pasadena Terminal. The team reported that the only VOC readings of significance were observed in the area between PRSI and Kinder Morgan and recommended additional TAGA monitoring in that area for the following day.

On September 10, 2017, they returned with the TAGA and monitored in the same four areas as they had monitored the previous day and although benzene was detected, they did not observe levels above the 180 ppb TCEQ AMCV threshold.

On September 11, 2017, the team broadened their monitoring to more of the fifteen facilities with benzene emissions in the vicinity of the Manchester community to whom EPA sent letters and monitored around the following facilities: United States Gypsum, Valero Houston Refinery (again), Eco Services Operations, Huntsman, Goodyear, Flint Hills, and TPC Group – Houston Plant.

On September 12, 2017, the team plans to monitor the remaining six facilities with benzene emissions in the vicinity of Manchester with the TAGA: Targa Resources – Galena Park Terminal, Motiva – Pasadena Terminal, VOPAK – Galena Park Terminal, Texmark Chemicals, Channel Energy Center, and Southwest Shipyard – Brady Island.

At the conclusion of the surveillance activities tomorrow, we will have surveyed all known clean air act facilities with the potential for benzene releases into the community of Manchester. If no elevated readings are detected, I recommend that we shift our mobile monitoring efforts to other areas.



**To:** Osbourne, Margaret[osbourne.margaret@epa.gov]  
**From:** Thompson, Steve  
**Sent:** Fri 9/8/2017 6:55:15 PM  
**Subject:** Re: statement on Manchester

Looks great. Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 8, 2017, at 1:51 PM, Osbourne, Margaret <[osbourne.margaret@epa.gov](mailto:osbourne.margaret@epa.gov)> wrote:

You good with this?:

EPA deployed four air quality technical specialists to Houston on September 8, 2017 to conduct surveillance in the Manchester area to evaluate potential sources of the volatile organic compounds and benzene that have been detected in the area in recent days. They will perform air monitoring, evaluate the data, and conduct facility assessments as appropriate. They intend to make entry at the Valero Houston Refinery on the afternoon on September 8 and will evaluate other facilities in the area as conditions warrant. This activity is being conducted in partnership with TCEQ.

Margaret Osbourne

Chief, Air Toxics Enforcement Section

Compliance Assurance & Enforcement Division

EPA Region 6

1445 Ross Avenue (6EN-AT)

Dallas, TX 75202

214-665-6508

**From:** Thompson, Steve

**Sent:** Friday, September 08, 2017 1:32 PM  
**To:** Osbourne, Margaret <[osbourne.margaret@epa.gov](mailto:osbourne.margaret@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Vargo, Steve <[Vargo.Steve@epa.gov](mailto:Vargo.Steve@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: statement on Manchester

Margaret,

Please edit.

Steve V.

Please also include Margaret moving forward on the coordination emails.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Vargo, Steve" <[Vargo.Steve@epa.gov](mailto:Vargo.Steve@epa.gov)>  
**Date:** September 8, 2017 at 1:28:45 PM CDT  
**To:** "Seager, Cheryl" <[Seager.Cheryl@epa.gov](mailto:Seager.Cheryl@epa.gov)>, "Thompson, Steve" <[thompson.steve@epa.gov](mailto:thompson.steve@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** R6HarveyInfo <[R6HarveyInfo@epa.gov](mailto:R6HarveyInfo@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** statement on Manchester

<image001.gif>

Here is a short summary. Any comments. Add to it if you like

EPA air monitoring technical specialists are conducting surveillance concerning benzene in the Manchester area. This activity is being conducted together with TCEQ and the City of Houston.

Steve Vargo

Associate Division Director

Multimedia Division

US EPA, Region 6

Work: 214 665 2730

Cell: 214 232 9020

**To:** Kim, Kevin[kim.kevin@epa.gov]  
**From:** Osbourne, Margaret  
**Sent:** Tue 9/12/2017 7:52:59 PM  
**Subject:** Can you send me what you have so far?

I need to check benzene emissions in Houston quickly.

Margaret Osbourne

Chief, Air Toxics Enforcement Section

Compliance Assurance & Enforcement Division

EPA Region 6

1445 Ross Avenue (6EN-AT)

Dallas, TX 75202

214-665-6508



**To:** R6HarveyENVL[R6HarveyENVL@epa.gov]; R6HarveySITL[R6HarveySITL@epa.gov]; Enders, Jhana[Enders.Jhana@epa.gov]; Seager, Cheryl[seager.cheryl@epa.gov]; Thompson, Steve[thompson.steve@epa.gov]; Snowbarger, Robert[Snowbarger.Robert@epa.gov]; Vargo, Steve[Vargo.Steve@epa.gov]  
**From:** Osbourne, Margaret  
**Sent:** Thur 9/14/2017 6:01:29 PM  
**Subject:** 1:00 report

Two EPA field personnel deployed to Houston (serving as technical specialists under the ESF-10 OSC) accompanied the TAGA in monitoring Shell Deer Park Refinery, Shell Deer Park Chemical Plant, and Vopak Deer Park. No readings of significance were identified.

Margaret Osbourne

Chief, Air Toxics Enforcement Section

Compliance Assurance & Enforcement Division

EPA Region 6

1445 Ross Avenue (6EN-AT)

Dallas, TX 75202

214-665-6508

**To:** Leathers, James[Leathers.James@epa.gov]; Haynes, James[haynes.james@epa.gov]; Chen, Justin[Chen.Justin@epa.gov]; Nfodzo, Prince[Nfodzo.Prince@epa.gov]  
**From:** Osbourne, Margaret  
**Sent:** Thur 9/14/2017 1:32:16 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: FYSA: Air Enforcement statement about Valero Houston

Press statement on Valero

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Larson, Darrin" <Larson.Darrin@epa.gov>  
**Date:** September 13, 2017 at 4:30:23 PM CDT  
**To:** "Thompson, Steve" <thompson.steve@epa.gov>, "Welton, Patricia" <Welton.Patricia@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** "Jones, John-L" <jones.john-l@epa.gov>, "Welton, Patricia" <Welton.Patricia@epa.gov>, "Osbourne, Margaret" <osbourne.margaret@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FYSA: Air Enforcement statement about Valero Houston

This reflects changes made by David.

EPA has concluded that the probable source of elevated benzene and VOC readings in the Manchester community in Houston was the roof failure and spill from a light crude storage tank at the Valero Houston Refinery during Hurricane Harvey. Following the review of air monitoring data from EPA's mobile unit and the City of Houston, EPA sent air specialists to the refinery on September 8 to evaluate the incident. Utilizing an infrared camera, EPA identified moderate on-going releases from the 190-foot wide tank. Valero reported to EPA that it was removing residual crude material from the tank using pumps and evaluating safe methods for removing the crumpled roof from the tank.

In addition, Valero has informed EPA that it believes it significantly underestimated the amount of VOCs and benzene released in its original report to the State of Texas Environmental Electronic Reporting System. Based upon the volume of material in the tank at the time of the roof failure, EPA estimates that the emissions from the tank were highest immediately following the roof failure and have diminished over time due to efforts by the company to remove tank contents and apply foam suppressant to minimize emissions. Valero has informed EPA and TCEQ that they are preparing a follow up report that will indicate as substantial increase in overall reported emissions from the event.

EPA investigation into Valero Houston Refinery response and cleanup activities will continue. EPA has a long-standing practice of not disclosing specific details regarding ongoing investigations. However, the complete results of our investigation will be made public upon its conclusion.

Darrin Larson  
Chief, Air Permitting Enforcement Section (6EN-AA)

U.S. EPA Region 6

Office: 214-665-7115  
Mobile: 972-467-5509

**To:** Larson, Darrin[Larson.Darrin@epa.gov]  
**From:** Osbourne, Margaret  
**Sent:** Wed 9/13/2017 9:35:51 PM  
**Subject:** Re: FYSA: Air Enforcement statement about Valero Houston

Typo last sentence second para. As substantial increase.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 13, 2017, at 4:30 PM, Larson, Darrin <[Larson.Darrin@epa.gov](mailto:Larson.Darrin@epa.gov)> wrote:

This reflects changes made by David.

EPA has concluded that the probable source of elevated benzene and VOC readings in the Manchester community in Houston was the roof failure and spill from a light crude storage tank at the Valero Houston Refinery during Hurricane Harvey. Following the review of air monitoring data from EPA's mobile unit and the City of Houston, EPA sent air specialists to the refinery on September 8 to evaluate the incident. Utilizing an infrared camera, EPA identified moderate on-going releases from the 190-foot wide tank. Valero reported to EPA that it was removing residual crude material from the tank using pumps and evaluating safe methods for removing the crumpled roof from the tank.

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EPA investigation into Valero Houston Refinery response and cleanup activities will continue. EPA has a long-standing practice of not disclosing specific details regarding on-going investigations. However, the complete results of our investigation will be made public upon its conclusion.

Darrin Larson  
Chief, Air Permitting Enforcement Section (6EN-AA)

U.S. EPA Region 6

Office: 214-665-7115  
Mobile: 972-467-5509

**To:** R6HarveyENVL[R6HarveyENVL@epa.gov]; R6HarveySITL[R6HarveySITL@epa.gov]; Seager, Cheryl[seager.cheryl@epa.gov]; Thompson, Steve[thompson.steve@epa.gov]; Enders, Jhana[Enders.Jhana@epa.gov]; Snowbarger, Robert[Snowbarger.Robert@epa.gov]; Vargo, Steve[Vargo.Steve@epa.gov]  
**From:** Osbourne, Margaret  
**Sent:** Sun 9/10/2017 5:59:27 PM  
**Subject:** 1:00 report out

The four EPA 6EN field personnel deployed to Houston (serving as technical specialists under the ESF-10 OSC) conducted total VOC area monitoring with the TAGA. They monitored in the Manchester area, Lawndale Rd near Lyondell Basell, and on N. Witter St. between Pasadena Refining Systems Inc. (PRSI) and Kinder Morgan's Pasadena Terminal. The team reported that the monitors detected benzene at all three locations and they will continue to monitor those locations this afternoon.

Margaret Osbourne

Chief, Air Toxics Enforcement Section

Compliance Assurance & Enforcement Division

EPA Region 6

1445 Ross Avenue (6EN-AT)

Dallas, TX 75202

214-665-6508

**To:** Thompson, Steve[thompson.steve@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Vargo, Steve[Vargo.Steve@epa.gov]  
**From:** Osbourne, Margaret  
**Sent:** Fri 9/8/2017 7:04:48 PM  
**Subject:** RE: statement on Manchester

Hi Steve:

Here's a revised version of what you provided.

EPA deployed four air quality technical specialists to Houston on September 8, 2017 to conduct surveillance in the Manchester area to evaluate potential sources of the volatile organic compounds and benzene that have been detected in the area in recent days. They will perform air monitoring, evaluate the data, and conduct facility assessments as appropriate. They intend to make entry at the Valero Houston Refinery on the afternoon on September 8 and will evaluate other facilities in the area as conditions warrant. This activity is being conducted in partnership with TCEQ.

Thanks,  
Margaret

Margaret Osbourne

Chief, Air Toxics Enforcement Section

Compliance Assurance & Enforcement Division

EPA Region 6

1445 Ross Avenue (6EN-AT)

Dallas, TX 75202

214-665-6508

**From:** Thompson, Steve  
**Sent:** Friday, September 08, 2017 1:32 PM

**To:** Osbourne, Margaret <osbourne.margaret@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Vargo, Steve <Vargo.Steve@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: statement on Manchester

Margaret,

Please edit.

Steve V.

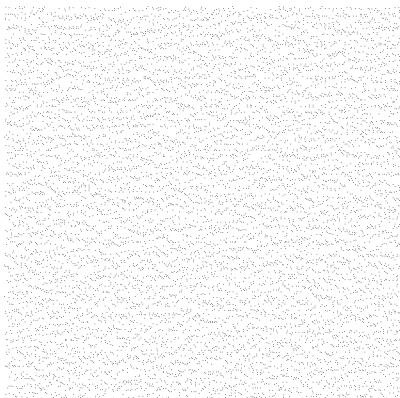
Please also include Margaret moving forward on the coordination emails.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Vargo, Steve" <Vargo.Steve@epa.gov>  
**Date:** September 8, 2017 at 1:28:45 PM CDT  
**To:** "Seager, Cheryl" <Seager.Cheryl@epa.gov>, "Thompson, Steve" <thompson.steve@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** R6HarveyInfo <R6HarveyInfo@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** statement on Manchester



Here is a short summary. Any comments. Add to it if you like



EPA air monitoring technical specialists are conducting surveillance concerning benzene in the Manchester area. This activity is being conducted together with TCEQ and the City of Houston.

Steve Vargo

Associate Division Director

Multimedia Division

US EPA, Region 6

Work: 214 665 2730

Cell: 214 232 9020

**To:** Thompson, Steve[thompson.steve@epa.gov]  
**From:** Osbourne, Margaret  
**Sent:** Mon 9/11/2017 9:39:48 PM  
**Subject:** 6EN activities to date

On September 8, 2017, four EPA 6EN field personnel deployed to Houston (serving as technical specialists under the ESF-10 OSC) and conducted total VOC area monitoring in the ship channel area with PIDs and FLIR cameras (since the TAGA was down). On Friday, September 8, two inspectors accompanied TCEQ investigators and made entry to the Valero Houston Refinery, observed the two problematic tanks (Tank 3, the floating roof tank with the failed roof, and Tank 228, the tank with the pinhole leak in the drain line), and documented corrective actions. They observed both tanks with the FLIR camera and observed emissions from Tank 3 with the camera in regular IR mode and emissions from Tank 228 with the camera in High Sensitivity mode. The two other inspectors conducted air monitoring with PIDs in the neighborhood surrounding Valero and did not observe any benzene levels above the 180 ppb threshold.

On September 9, 2017, the TAGA was still down so the 6EN field personnel conducted air monitoring in the following four areas: (1) south of LyondellBasell - Houston Refining along Lawndale St.; (2) west of the Magellan Terminals Facility along the fenceline on Federal Rd.; (3) southwest of Valero Houston Refinery's Tank 3 across from Sims bayou; and (4) along N Witter St. between Pasadena Refining Systems Inc. (PRSI) and Kinder Morgan's Pasadena Terminal. The team reported that the only VOC readings of significance were observed in the area between PRSI and Kinder Morgan and recommended additional TAGA monitoring in that area for the following day.

On September 10, 2017, they returned to the four areas with the TAGA and monitored in the same four areas as they had monitored the previous day and although benzene was detected, they did not observe levels above the 180 ppb TCEQ AMCV threshold.

On September 11, 2017, the team broadened their monitoring to more of the fifteen facilities with benzene emissions in the vicinity of the Manchester community to whom EPA sent letters and monitored around the following facilities: United States Gypsum, Valero Houston Refinery (again), Eco Services Operations, Huntsman, Goodyear, Flint Hills, and TPC Group – Houston Plant.

On September 12, 2017, the team plans to monitor the remaining six facilities with benzene emissions in the vicinity of Manchester with the TAGA: Targa Resources – Galena Park Terminal, Motiva – Pasadena Terminal, VOPAK – Galena Park Terminal, Texmark Chemicals,

Channel Energy Center, and Southwest Shipyard – Brady Island.

Margaret Osbourne

Chief, Air Toxics Enforcement Section

Compliance Assurance & Enforcement Division

EPA Region 6

1445 Ross Avenue (6EN-AT)

Dallas, TX 75202

214-665-6508

**To:** Thompson, Steve[thompson.steve@epa.gov]  
**From:** Osbourne, Margaret  
**Sent:** Mon 9/11/2017 9:20:20 PM  
**Subject:** Activities to date

On September 8, 2017, four EPA 6EN field personnel deployed to Houston (serving as technical specialists under the ESF-10 OSC) and conducted total VOC area monitoring in the ship channel area. On Friday, September 8, two inspectors accompanied TCEQ investigators and made entry to the Valero Houston Refinery, observed the two problematic tanks (Tank 3, the floating roof tank with the failed roof, and Tank 228, the tank with the pinhole leak in the drain line), and documented corrective actions. The two other inspectors conducted air monitoring in the neighborhood surrounding Valero and did not note any benzene levels above the 30 ppb threshold.

On September 9, 2017, the 6EN field personnel conducted air monitoring in the following four areas: (1) south of LyondellBasell - Houston Refining along Lawndale St.; (2) west of the Magellan Terminals Facility along the fenceline on Federal Rd.; (3) southwest of Valero Houston Refinery's Tank 3 across from Sims bayou; and (4) along N Witter St. between Pasadena Refining Systems Inc. (PRSI) and Kinder Morgan's Pasadena Terminal. The team reported that the only VOC readings of significance were observed in the area between PRSI and Kinder Morgan and recommended additional TAGA monitoring in that area.

On September 10, 2017, they returned to the four areas they monitored in the same four areas as monitored the previous day and although benzene was detected, they did not observe levels above the 30 ppb threshold.

On September 11, 2017, they broadened their monitoring to more of the fifteen facilities with benzene emissions to whom EPA sent letters and monitored around the following facilities: United States Gypsum, Valero Houston Refinery (again), Eco Services Operations, Huntsman, Goodyear, Flint Hills, and TPC Group – Houston Plant.

On September 12, 2017, the team plans to monitor the remaining six facilities with benzene emissions in the immediate area of Manchester: Targa Resources – Galena Park Terminal, Motiva – Pasadena Terminal, VOPAK – Galena Park Terminal, Texmark Chemicals, Channel Energy Center, and Southwest Shipyard – Brady Island.

Margaret Osbourne

Chief, Air Toxics Enforcement Section

Compliance Assurance & Enforcement Division

EPA Region 6

1445 Ross Avenue (6EN-AT)

Dallas, TX 75202

214-665-6508

**To:** Leathers, James[leathers.james@epa.gov]  
**From:** Osbourne, Margaret  
**Sent:** Sat 9/9/2017 2:09:05 AM  
**Subject:** FW: Report out on activities today & plan for tomorrow

Margaret Osbourne

Chief, Air Toxics Enforcement Section

Compliance Assurance & Enforcement Division

EPA Region 6

1445 Ross Avenue (6EN-AT)

Dallas, TX 75202

214-665-6508

**From:** Osbourne, Margaret  
**Sent:** Friday, September 08, 2017 9:09 PM  
**To:** R6HarveyENVL <R6HarveyENVL@epa.gov>; Snowbarger, Robert <Snowbarger.Robert@epa.gov>; Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>; Seager, Cheryl <Seager.Cheryl@epa.gov>; Enders, Jhana <Enders.Jhana@epa.gov>; R6HarveySITL <R6HarveySITL@epa.gov>; Vargo, Steve <Vargo.Steve@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Report out on activities today & plan for tomorrow

Report out on Activities today:

Four EPA 6EN field personnel deployed to Houston on Friday, September 8, 2017.

Two inspectors teamed up with TCEQ investigators and made entry to Valero Refinery in the Manchester neighborhood. They viewed Tank 3, the floating roof tank with the failed roof, and Tank 228, the tank with the pinhole leak in the drain line. Valero estimates that Tank 228 will

be emptied and degassed by next week. Tank 3 is the more problematic of the tanks as liquid has collected on the crumpled roof. The tank is still unsafe to empty and inspect. There is no estimate yet as to when that tank will be emptied and inspected. TCEQ and EPA recommended that in the meantime, Valero conduct fence line monitoring.

Two inspectors teamed up with TCEQ investigators and conducted air monitoring in the neighborhood and didn't note any benzene levels above the 30 ppb threshold.

Tomorrow the team plans to conduct air monitoring around Magellan Terminals and Lyondell-Basel Refinery.

Margaret Osbourne

Chief, Air Toxics Enforcement Section

Compliance Assurance & Enforcement Division

EPA Region 6

1445 Ross Avenue (6EN-AT)

Dallas, TX 75202

214-665-6508

**To:** R6HarveyENVL[R6HarveyENVL@epa.gov]; Snowbarger, Robert[Snowbarger.Robert@epa.gov]; Thompson, Steve[thompson.steve@epa.gov]; Seager, Cheryl[Seager.Cheryl@epa.gov]; Enders, Jhana[Enders.Jhana@epa.gov]; R6HarveySITL[R6HarveySITL@epa.gov]; Vargo, Steve[Vargo.Steve@epa.gov]  
**From:** Osbourne, Margaret  
**Sent:** Sat 9/9/2017 2:08:37 AM  
**Subject:** Report out on activities today & plan for tomorrow

Report out on Activities today:

Four EPA 6EN field personnel deployed to Houston on Friday, September 8, 2017.

Two inspectors teamed up with TCEQ investigators and made entry to Valero Refinery in the Manchester neighborhood. They viewed Tank 3, the floating roof tank with the failed roof, and Tank 228, the tank with the pinhole leak in the drain line. Valero estimates that Tank 228 will be emptied and degassed by next week. Tank 3 is the more problematic of the tanks as liquid has collected on the crumpled roof. The tank is still unsafe to empty and inspect. There is no estimate yet as to when that tank will be emptied and inspected. TCEQ and EPA recommended that in the meantime, Valero conduct fenceline monitoring.

Two inspectors teamed up with TCEQ investigators and conducted air monitoring in the neighborhood and didn't note any benzene levels above the 30 ppb threshold.

Tomorrow the team plans to conduct air monitoring around Magellan Terminals and Lyondell-Basel Refinery.

Margaret Osbourne

Chief, Air Toxics Enforcement Section

Compliance Assurance & Enforcement Division

EPA Region 6

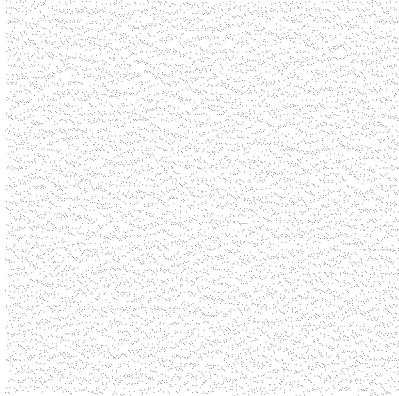
1445 Ross Avenue (6EN-AT)

Dallas, TX 75202



214-665-6508

**To:** Seager, Cheryl[Seager.Cheryl@epa.gov]; Thompson, Steve[thompson.steve@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** R6HarveyInfo[R6HarveyInfo@epa.gov]  
**From:** Vargo, Steve  
**Sent:** Fri 9/8/2017 6:28:45 PM  
**Subject:** statement on Manchester



Here is a short summary. Any comments. Add to it if you like

EPA air monitoring technical specialists are conducting surveillance concerning benzene in the Manchester area. This activity is being conducted together with TCEQ and the City of Houston.

Steve Vargo

Associate Division Director

Multimedia Division

US EPA, Region 6

Work: 214 665 2730

Cell: 214 232 9020

**To:** Seager, Cheryl[Seager.Cheryl@epa.gov]  
**From:** Thompson, Steve  
**Sent:** Mon 9/11/2017 10:16:44 PM  
**Subject:** Summary of field efforts

On September 8, 2017, four EPA 6EN field personnel deployed to Houston (serving as technical specialists under the ESF-10 OSC) and conducted total VOC area monitoring in the ship channel area with PIDs and FLIR cameras (since the TAGA was down). On Friday, September 8, two inspectors accompanied TCEQ investigators and made entry to the Valero Houston Refinery, observed the two problematic tanks (Tank 3, the floating roof tank with the failed roof, and Tank 228, the tank with the pinhole leak in the drain line), and documented corrective actions. They observed both tanks with the FLIR camera and observed emissions from Tank 3 with the camera in regular IR mode and emissions from Tank 228 with the camera in High Sensitivity mode. The two other inspectors conducted air monitoring with PIDs in the neighborhood surrounding Valero and did not observe any benzene levels above the 180 ppb threshold.

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On September 12, 2017, the team plans to monitor the remaining six facilities with benzene emissions in the vicinity of Manchester with the TAGA: Targa Resources – Galena Park Terminal, Motiva – Pasadena Terminal, VOPAK – Galena Park Terminal, Texmark Chemicals,

Channel Energy Center, and Southwest Shipyard – Brady Island.

At the conclusion of the surveillance activities tomorrow, we will have surveyed all known clean air act facilities with the potential for benzene releases into the community of Manchester. If no elevated readings are detected, I recommend that we shift our mobile monitoring efforts to other areas.

Steve Thompson

Branch Chief

Air Enforcement Branch

Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division

U.S. EPA Region 6

Dallas, TX 75202

214-665-2769

[thompson.steve@epa.gov](mailto:thompson.steve@epa.gov)